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VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Souderton, Pennsylvania, December 15, 2014:

Patricia Hill, 75 years old.

Joanna Koder Hill, 57.

Aaron Flick, 39.

Patricia Flick, 36.

Nicole Hill, 33.

Nina Flick, 14 years old.

Rice, Texas, September 20, 2013:

Israel Alvarez, 33 years old.

Misael Alvarez, 10.

Cain Alvarez, 8.

Israel Junior Alvarez, 4.

Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 7, 2013:

Julie Jackson, 55 years old.

Misty Nunley, 33.

Rebeika Powell, 23.

Kayetie Melchor, 23 years old.

Colorado Springs, Colorado, November 27, 2015:

Officer Garrett Swasey, 44 years old.

Jennifer Markovsky, 35.

Ke'Arre Stewart, 29.

Cadiz, Kentucky, October 26, 2014:

Lindsey Champion, 62 years old.

Joy Champion, 60.

Emily Champion, 32.

Vito Riservato, 22.

Palestine, Texas, November, 14, 2014:

Carl Johnson, 77 years old.

Thomas Camp, 46.

Hannah Johnson, 40.

Nathan Camp, 23.

Austin Camp, 21.

Kade Johnson, 6.

THERE IS NO BURGER KING PROVISION IN THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration blames the violence in America on gun dealers and Congress. So the administration is going to issue some more executive memos and unilaterally ignore the Second Amendment.

Never mind that the administration's illegal action would not have prevented any of the tragic mass shootings in recent years. The administration should be prosecuting criminals who use guns, not vetoing the Second Amendment.

The administration's executive action on gun control is just the latest example of the White House attempting to bypass the Constitution and the legislative branch to implement a political agenda.

The Constitution does not have a Burger King provision for the executive branch. The President cannot have it his way. Laws are written by Congress. The executive is to enforce the law, and the former constitutional professor should know better than to dictate new law, regardless of whether he thinks it is a good idea or not.

The administration's edict granting of executive amnesty has already been

ruled unconstitutional by lower courts, but it seems that the administration won't let the Constitution get in the way of political expediency.

And that is just the way it is.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this time last year, I attended the State of the Union Address with my guest, Richard Martinez, whose son Christopher was gunned down during a tragic Isla Vista shooting that rocked our local community on the Central Coast of California.

Together, we committed that "not one more" life should be lost, "not one more" family affected, "not one more" community torn apart by gun violence.

On Tuesday, Mr. Martinez stood with the President as he announced executive actions to curb gun violence. These actions are an important step forward, but they are also a recognition that Congress has shirked its responsibility to take action to protect all Americans from this epidemic.

If we are ever going to fulfill our pledge "not one more," we must take bold action.

I speak today to urge my colleagues to join us. It is far past time to act with urgency, put partisanship aside, do what is necessary to keep our neighborhoods safe. We may never be able to guarantee the elimination of gun violence entirely, but we can guarantee that, if we do nothing, nothing will change.

STAFF SERGEANT CHESTER MCBRIDE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, lining the streets of downtown Statesboro, Georgia, last weekend, hundreds of people holding American flags gathered to pay respects to a fallen hero. Air Force Sergeant Chester McBride was killed in an attack in Afghanistan that also claimed the lives of five more service-members last month.

He was laid to rest on Saturday, January 2. Chester was only 30 years old. He was a former starting cornerback for the 2001 Statesboro High School championship team. He excelled in sports in school, graduating from Savannah State University in 2007.

Chester had dreams of joining the FBI when he returned home. He was posthumously awarded four medals for his actions in service by the United States Air Force.

Chester chose to serve his country, and we will always remember the sacrifices he made in the name of freedom. A family has lost a son, and a community has lost a hometown hero.

May God continue to bless our servicemen and -women and their families. Let us never forget what was said 2,000 years ago: that the greatest love one can offer is to offer their lives for another.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues from both sides to stand up for the 100,000 people who have been killed by gun violence over the past decade.

It is time to stand up for the over 2,600 children who die from gun violence and the over 6,400 women who are murdered by an intimate partner by a gun each year.

I believe it is the responsibility of this body to take the steps in order to protect our citizens. We are not limiting a person's right to bear arms by requiring everyone or an entity selling firearms to obtain a license and to do background checks. We are saving lives. We are not limiting a person's right to bear arms by looking at safety technology, gun safes with fingerprint technology. We are saving lives.

We are certainly not restricting a responsible citizen from obtaining a firearm by investing in mental health care and by renewing domestic violence outreach efforts, as both are causes of gun violence.

It is time to respond to this now. The status quo is no longer acceptable.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we made history. For the first time, Congress put a bill on a President's desk to defund Planned Parenthood, an organization that puts its financial interests ahead of women and children. More than that, Congress is investing in women's health by redirecting this funding to organizations that don't take innocent lives.

In Michigan, there are 20 federally qualified health clinics for every single Planned Parenthood location. Let's eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood and invest those dollars in federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics. This will ensure that women receive high quality medical care while protecting the life of the unborn.

West Michigan and the Second District of Michigan are home to passionate and dedicated pro-life organizations in Grand Rapids, Holland, and the Tri-Cities area, and Muskegon, Newaygo, and Mason Counties.

Later this month, hundreds of thousands of Americans, including many

from west Michigan, will be marching in their hometowns, as well as in Washington, D.C., as they honor the sanctity of life. I look forward to joining them.

BISHOP JAMES ARMSTRONG

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bishop James Armstrong, a dedicated faith leader who served the west Dallas community for the past 30 years.

Bishop Armstrong was born July 12, 1940, in Karnack, Texas. He eventually relocated to Dallas to pursue a career as a professional machinist. At some time after he moved to Dallas, he felt the call to serve. He pursued his doctorate of divinity from the Christian Bible Institute and Seminary.

In 1992, Mr. Armstrong found the Community Care Fellowship Church, where he served as the senior pastor for 25 years. During his three decades of service, Bishop Armstrong remained dedicated to creating a safe environment for the community he ministered. From advocating for a neighborhood YMCA to helping the homeless, west Dallas will not forget Mr. Armstrong's devotion to serving others.

He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Mable Armstrong; one son; three daughters; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering and celebrating the life of Bishop James Armstrong's legacy and generosity to the community.

DELAWARE VALLEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Delaware Valley Friends School, its staff, students, and their parents on a very prestigious honor.

On January 19, the Paoli-based school will be presented with the Apple Distinguished School Award by the technology company Apple. This award is presented to outstanding schools and programs worldwide for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence based on five best practices: visionary leadership, innovative learning in technology, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment.

Schools honored to receive this award must achieve educational excellence in all categories. In fact, Delaware Valley Friends School is one of only two Chester County schools to be presented with this prestigious award.

I regret I cannot attend this ceremony, but I wish the school the very best here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on this historic achievement.

Best wishes to the Delaware Valley Friends School as they continue to provide educational excellence to its students.

TONY ARMSTRONG

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in Memphis, Tennessee, today our director of police, Toney Armstrong, announced he would be leaving his position.

Director Armstrong served the city of Memphis as a policeman since 1989. In 2011, he became the director of police, the youngest director in the city's history. He did a great job.

I started my career as an attorney for the police department in Memphis and served 3½ years there and knew all the directors, and none were better than Toney Armstrong, becoming director at 44 and having risen through the ranks. It is a tough job being a policeman, and it is a tough job being director of an urban police department. He did a fine job.

Toney Armstrong is moving over to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to be head of security there. St. Jude is a blessing to Memphis and a blessing to the world. They are going to employ 7,000 new people in the next 6 years and increase their opportunities to treat children by 20 percent.

Toney Armstrong will be a great director. It is a great team, Toney Armstrong and St. Jude. Thank God for each.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SECOND AMENDMENT

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the administration's most recent action that runs afoul of our Second Amendment rights.

The President's executive orders could easily impact citizens' privacy and due process, all at the whim of a bureaucrat.

Rather than putting in place new hurdles for citizens who chose to exercise their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, the administration's focus should be on the laws already on the books that they are not enforcing.

The administration's actions are unconstitutional and simply are another attempt to distract from the real issues at hand, particularly the onward march of terrorism and the destabilizing effect the deal with Iran is having in the Middle East. It would serve the country better to focus our full effort on defeating radical Islamic terrorists.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE AND MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly 5 years ago to the day, I rose to offer my support for one of my closest friends and our former colleague, Gabrielle Giffords. That day, many of us, from both sides of the aisle, mourned the six Americans whose lives were taken by a deranged gunman in Tucson, Arizona.

Since then, it has become eerily commonplace for a Member to lead a moment of silence to honor their murdered constituents: a colleague of ours whose life changed forever, twenty 6-year-old children, a Federal judge, worshippers in church.

How does Republican fervor over the right to own a gun trump the right not to be murdered by someone who shouldn't have a gun?

President Obama's executive actions are a critical step to reducing this national epidemic. They are well within his legal authority and will help keep guns out of dangerous hands. They are so critical because of Republican inaction on closing loopholes, which a majority of Americans support, and their failure to rise above the NRA's fearmongering.

Democrats will continue to bring meaningful, commonsense solutions to this floor so we can keep our Nation safer.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JESSICA SLAVIK

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Jessica Slavik from the Anoka County Sheriff's Department who has recently been named the 2015 Deputy of the Year by the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association.

Jessica has worked for the Anoka County Sheriff's Office for 8 years, serving in the jail division, patrol division, court security unit, and currently as a deputy in the crime scene unit.

From staff within her department to jurors, the county attorney's office, and even a judge presiding over a case she worked on, there is no lack of praise for Deputy Slavik.

Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart says: "Deputy Jessica Slavik exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond and embraces her role as an ambassador in our communities."

We are proud to have a leader like Jessica in the Anoka community. Her work is invaluable to the safety of the people of Minnesota's Sixth District, and for that we are sincerely grateful.

Thank you, Deputy Slavik. Keep up the excellent work.